

Chancellor's Community Forum Agenda

90% of Brain Development Occurs by the Age of Five

Francis-Stevens Education Campus

October 28, 2009

6:30 – 8:00PM

Welcome

Maurice Kennard

Principal of Francis-Stevens Education Campus

Introduction

Chancellor Michelle Rhee

Presentation on Early Childhood Education and Early Stages

Discussion Panel

Miriam Calderon, Director of Early Childhood Education

Nathaniel Beers, Director of Early Stages

Melissa Grant, DCPS Teacher

Video and Discussion

Questions and Answers

7:30PM

Forum Closing

8:00PM

Meet the Content Presenters

Miriam Calderon, Director of Early Childhood Education

Miriam Calderon is the Director of Early Childhood Education in the Office of Teaching and Learning at DC Public Schools. In this capacity, she serves as the Administrator for Head Start, preschool, and prekindergarten programs serving nearly 4,500 children in 85 elementary schools throughout the city. Prior to joining DC Public Schools, Miriam's work focused on federal early childhood education policy. She served as the Associate Director of Education Policy at the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic civil rights organization, for 5 ½ years. Miriam is a social worker by training and began her career in early education working as a Mental Health Consultant in Head Start programs in Portland, Oregon. She has published several reports on early childhood education and her work is cited in both the English and Spanish media. She holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology with a Social Welfare concentration from the University of Delaware and her Masters in Social Work from Portland State University. Miriam is a native of the District and the mother of three year old twins.

Nathaniel Beers, Director of Early Stages

Nathaniel Beers is the Director of Early Stages in the Office of Special Education in DC Public Schools. Prior to joining DC Public Schools, he was the Deputy Director of Policy and Programs for the Community Health Administration of the DC Department of Health and the Title V Director for DC. He currently serves on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Welfare and the Children with Special Health Care Needs Advisory Board. Nathaniel completed his undergraduate education at the University of Rochester, his medical school education at George Washington University, and holds a Masters in Public Administration at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Nathaniel is a DC native and a graduate of the School Without Walls Senior High School. He is married to Lee Savio Beers, a pediatrician at Children's National Medical Center, and has a daughter, Charlotte Savio Beers, and a son, Jonah Savio Beers.

Melissa Grant, DCPS Teacher

Melissa Grant is a second year teacher with DC Public Schools. She is currently teaching prekindergarten Special Education at Oyster Bilingual Elementary School. As a first year teacher in 2008-2009, Melissa began the Early Childhood Center at Oyster, a special education program serving preschool students. Prior to working in Washington DC, Melissa taught Preschool Special Education and Special Instruction through the Early Intervention Program in New York City. She graduated from Bank Street College of Education with a Masters in Early Childhood Special Education and Child Life.